B1 Cancel

6. (Amended) A method for manufacturing ligneous material, the method comprising:

preparing first wood fibers which are acetylated with a first degree of acetylation, and second wood fibers which are not acetylated, wherein said first degree of acetylation measured in weight percent gain is 7% or greater; and

binding a first amount of said first wood fibers and a second amount of said second wood fibers with a binder containing polyisocyanate to form a composite, wherein the average degree of acetylation measured in weight percent gain of said composite is 7% or greater.

7. (Amended) The method for manufacturing ligneous material according to claim 6, wherein said first wood fibers are acetylated by placing wood fibers in a gas or liquid which contains acetyl groups.

B2

8. (Amended) The method for manufacturing ligneous material according to claim 6, wherein said first amount is 50% by weight or greater of the total amount of said first and second wood fibers and said second amount is less than 50% by weight of the total amount of said first and second wood fibers.

B3

9. (Amended) The method for manufacturing ligneous material according to claim 6, wherein said average degree of acetylation measured in weight percent gain of said composite is 7 to 18%.

B4

11. (Amended) The method for manufacturing ligneous material according to claim 6, wherein said binder contains polymeric 4,4-diphenylmethane diisocyanate.

B5

13. (New) The method for manufacturing ligneous material according to claim 6, wherein said first wood fibers are produced by defibrating wood chips.

14. (New) The method for manufacturing ligneous material according to claim 6, wherein said first wood fibers have a diameter of 0.1 to 1.0 mm.